Deficit in production due to drought

2473. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loss of agricultural production due to drought situation in the country;

(b) in what ways Government would face the deficit of food production in the country; and

(c) the lesson Government has taken from the previous experiences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) Due to deficient and erratic rainfall in the Kharif 2009, Kharif crop production was adversely affected. The crop-wise position at all India level as per 1st advanced estimate released by Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture is given in the Statement *(See* below).

(b) and (c) Various steps have been initiated by the Government. Relaxation in respect of use of Truthful Labeled (TL) seeds and age limit have been given under crop Development. Schemes. Subsidy rates of rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses seeds have been enhanced from Rs. 500 to Rs.700/qtl. for rice & wheat, Rs. 1200 to Rs.2000/qtl. for pulses & Rs. 800 to Rs 1000/qtl. for coarse cereals(only for 2009-10), under crop development schemes. Additional power has been supplied to Punjab, Haryana and other States to energize the water pumps for saving standing crops. Planning for timely supply of inputs such as quality seed, adequate quantity of fertilizers for Rabi is ensured through tie-up with various agencies. Periodic district level Visits of experts/ consultants in the ministry to States for gearing up timely preparation and implementation of rabi crop development plans. Additional areas under boro/ summer rice, wheat, pulses are planned. Additional wheat minikits of rust resistance, heat tolerant varieties such as DBW 17 are being distributed. Enhanced pulses production through area expansion especially of green graM in rice fallows in Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, and chick pea in rice fallows of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh is planned. Additional seed quantity is made available to the states as per the required demand assessed in the zonal input review meetings.

Statement

Cropwise position of Kharif Crop Production

Crop	Kharif 2008	Kharif 2009	Increase/ decrease over last year (+)(-)
1	2	3	4
Rice	84.58	69.45	-15.13
Kharif Coarse Cereals	28.34	22.16	-5.58

1	2	3	4
Kharif Pulses	4.78	4.42	-0.36
Kharif food grains	117.70	96.63	-21.07
Kharif Oilseeds**	178.82	152.33	-26.49
Cotton*	231.56	236.57	+5.01
Sugarcane*	2739.31	2494.82	-244.49

* in lakh bales

** in lakh tonnes

Sources: Directorate of Economic & Statistic. Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation

Standard testing system for pesticides and chemicals

†2474. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 153 given in Rajya Sabha on 3 July, 2009 and state;

(a) whether any standard norms have been fixed for all types of pesticide chemicals and non-chemicals;

(b) if so, whether there is any arrangement for testing the standards of these chemicals as soon as they come out of manufacturing site;

(c) if so, the reasons for not cancelling the licence of the manufacturer in case they are sub-standard;

(d) whether licence of the seller is seized and he is penalized in case the pesticides are found spurious at marketing stage; and

(e) whether pesticides appear to be ineffective and thus sub-standard because some insects have developed immune system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Registration of every pesticide, including pesticides of biological origin, is mandatory under the provision of the Insecticides Act, 1968 (the Act), which is done only after submission of specifications, method of analysis and testing of a sample thereof.

(b) and (c) As pet Rule 28 of the Insecticide Rules, 1971 (the Rules), the Insecticide Inspector, has to inspect every pesticide manufacturing unit under his jurisdiction at least twice a year to satisfy himself about compliance of conditions of licence and the Act/Rules and also draw samples of pesticides from such units. In case, the samples fail to conform to the standards, action is taken under section 14 of the Act to revoke or suspend the licence issued to the manufacturer.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.